

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSM-03 /074 W
-----051680 311808Z /41

O 311121Z DEC 77 ZDK
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3704
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
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FOR THE SECRETARY'S ATTENTION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG US IS XF
SUBJECT: CARTER CLARIFICATION -- POSSIBLE VISIT

REF: CAIRO 23290

SUMMARY. PRESS HIGHLIGHTS CARTER'S CLARIFICATIONS AND
WILLINGNESS TO VISIT SADAT. EQUAL TREATMENT GIVEN TO
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VANCE STATEMENT THAT U.S. DOES NOT SUPPORT BEGIN PLAN.
EDITORIALS MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER CRITICIZE CARTER
STATEMENTS; ATTACK BEGIN'S ATTITUDE IN NEGOTIATIONS.
U.S. CLARIFICATIONS HAVE AMELIORATED ADVERSE EGYPTIAN
REACTION. SOME BELIEVE PUBLIC DISAGREEMENT HAS SERVED
USEFUL PURPOSE OF REMINDING U.S. THAT SADAT CANNOT BE
TAKEN FOR GRANTED. END SUMMARY.

1. CLARIFICATION. ALL PAPERS DEC 31 HEADLINE PRESIDENT CARTER'S CLARIFICATION ON U.S.-MID EAST POLICY, REITERATING USG PREFERENCE FOR PALESTINIAN ENTITY LINKED TO JORDAN (SADAT'S OWN POSITION). PAPERS NOTE PRESIDENT SAID HE WILL ACCEPT ANY AGREEMENT REACHED BY ISRAEL AND EGYPT AND U.S. HAS NO INTENTION OF IMPOSING SETTLEMENT.

2. VISIT. PRESS MOOT PRESIDENTIAL VISIT NEXT WEDNESDAY, QUOTING WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN AS SAYING FINAL DECISION WILL BE REACHED DEC 31, ON PICKING UP SADAT'S STANDING INVITATION AT THIS TIME. PAPERS REPORT PRESIDENT PREPARED MEET SADAT, IF THIS CONSIDERED DESIRABLE BY BOTH SIDES.

3. SECRETARY. PRESS PROMINENTLY NOTES SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT USG DOES NOT SUPPORT BEGIN PLAN, ALTHOUGH IT "GOOD STARTING POINT". SECRETARY ALSO QUOTED AS HOPING PALESTINIANS WILL JOIN IN NEGOTIATIONS IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE, SINCE THEY SHOULD PLAY ROLE IN DETERMINING SETTLEMENT.

4. INVITATIONS TO JERUSALEM MEETING. PRESS FRONT PAGES EGYPTIAN (BUT NOT ISRAELI) INVITATIONS TO UNSYG WALDHEIM AND SECRETARY TO PARTICIPATE IN JERUSALEM POLITICAL COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS. WALDHEIM INVITATION EXTENDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THROUGH EGYPTIAN MISSION TO UN; SECRETARY'S FORWARDED THROUGH EMBASSY CAIRO. SECRETARY'S ACCEPTANCE FEATURED.

5. EDITORIALS. ALL PAPERS EDITORIALIZE, MORE IN SORROW THAN ANGER, ON PRESIDENT'S EARLIER REMARKS. TYPICAL WAS AHAM, WHICH SAYS THESE "GIVE RISE TO PERPLEXITY" ON U.S. STAND. PRESIDENT REFERS TO LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS, SAYING THEY SHOULD HAVE HOMELAND OR ENTITY, WHILE SUPPORTING ISRAELI REJECTION INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE AND DEMAND FOR MILITARY PRESENCE ON WEST BANK. RHETORICALLY, AHAM QUESTIONS HOW IT POSSIBLE GRANT PALESTINIAN RIGHTS WITHOUT SELF-DETERMINATION, ALSO QUESTIONS POSSIBILITY OF JUST AND DURABLE PEACE WITH CRUX OF PROBLEM UNSOLVED. CONCLUDES CREATION PALESTINIAN STATE ONLY REAL GUARANTEE AGAINST FUTURE WARS, ASKING WHETHER USG WILL SACRIFICE GENUINE PEACE FOR SAKE OF DOMESTIC GAINS.

6. COMMENTARY. COMMENTATORS DEC 31 HIT BEGIN'S PEACE PLAN HARD. MOST VIRULENT WRITTEN BY MUSTAFA AMIN IN AKHBAR AL-YOM. AMIN, REFERRING TO BEGIN STATEMENT THAT HE ALMOST WALKED OUT OF ISMAILIA TALKS TWICE, SAYS

ISRAELI PM LUCKY NONE OF EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATORS SLAPPED HIM IN FACE. CONTINUED, EGYPT NOT NEGOTIATING WITH DELEGATES OF STATE OF ISRAEL BUT "WITH SHYLOCK . . . JEWISH USURER CLAIMING POUND OF FLESH FROM DEBTORS BODY." BEGIN DEPICTED AS PROPERTY USURPER CLAIMING DAMAGES FOR OWN THEFT. "THOSE WHO KNOW HOW CLEVER ISRAELI MERCHANT IS WERE NOT TAKEN ABACK BY BEGIN'S ATTITUDE." HOWEVER, EGYPTIANS SURPRISED BY RECENT DECLARATIONS PRESIDENT CARTER. PRESIDENT APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING "INTERNATIONAL DANCE, TAKING TWO STEPS FORWARD AND ONE BACK." UN-FORTUNATELY RECENT REMARKS INDICATE DANCE HAS CHANGED TO ONE FORWARD AND TWO BACK. TO WHOSE TUNE, AMIN CONCLUDES, IS CARTER DANCING?

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7. COMMENT. REPORT THAT PRESIDENT CONSIDERING VISIT TO SADAT AND SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT U.S. DOES NOT BACK BEGIN PEACE PLAN HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN AMELIORATING

YESTERDAY'S ADVERSE EGYPTIAN REACTION TO PALESTINIAN
STATE STATEMENT. SOME OFFICIALS HAVE COMMENTED PRIVATELY
THAT SADAT'S PUBLIC DISAGREEMENT WITH PRESIDENT MAY HAVE
SERVED USEFUL PURPOSE OF REMINDING U.S. THAT SADAT CANNOT
BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED AND WILL STICK TO HIS BASIC PRIN-
CIPLES FOR COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. ELTS

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